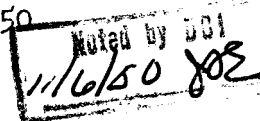


3 November 1950



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

As General Smith left the White House this morning after his regular Friday briefing for the President, he was stopped by two reporters, one of whom was known to General Smith and the undersigned (Anthony Leviero, Washington correspondent of the New York Times), and was asked what he, General Smith, had seen the President about and if there were any comments on the editorial in today's TIMES-HERALD.

General Smith indicated that he had discussed the world situation with the President, and, as far as the editorial in the TIMES-HERALD was concerned, he could only refer to the law (Public Law 253) which states that CIA shall have no police, subpena, law-enforcement powers, or internal security functions in the United States and/or her possessions.

General Smith was also asked if he intended to "reorganize CIA" to which he answered he did not intend to make any major changes for at least six months in order that he might determine what was needed. He did mention, however, that he planned to bring in "some qualified people in the field of intelligence and research, one of whom was Dr. William Langer of Harvard University."



Administrative Assistant
to the Director

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TIMES-HERALD

*There is no genius in life like the genius of
energy and industry.*

D. G. MITCHELL.

Why Was No Warning Given?

President Truman owes his life to the gallantry of the police on duty at Blair House. He owes the danger to which he was needlessly subjected to the incompetence of the Central Intelligence Agency which is supposed to know what is brewing politically everywhere in the world.

This office now is headed by Gen. W. Bedell Smith, who got the job in spite of the lack of alertness he displayed at the time of the Pearl Harbor disaster when he was secretary of the Army's general staff. Gen. Smith seems to have known nothing of the activities of the Puerto Rican malcontents. Perhaps investigation will disclose that the information had been received but had been discounted as of no importance. This is what happened at the time of the North Korean attack on June 25. After the event, it was learned that plenty of warnings had been sent, only to be filed away.

Repeated The Central Intelligence Agency was set up with a view to correcting just such blunders after the weakness of our intelligence services had been disclosed in the Bogota uprising two years ago. That was particularly embarrassing to the State department because Secretary Marshall had gone to Bogota to attend the Ninth conference of the American republics. He had hardly arrived when the uprising took place, an uprising of Communist inspiration, whose obvious purpose was to discredit the United States and Gen. Marshall.

Blunders The failure of the new agency in Korea and again in Washington on Wednesday suggests all too plainly that this consolidated bureau, for all its elaborate organization and its army of payrollers, is no more serviceable to the country than the uncoordinated agencies which it replaced.

Two letters of instruction, found in the pockets of one of the assassins, were signed by Pedro Albizu Campos, who directed the revolt which flared in Puerto Rico a few days ago. Campos is not an unknown character. He has served time in Atlanta penitentiary for subversion. That he was a leader of the independence movement was well known.

The Puerto Rican conspirators had their associates in other Latin American countries, notably Cuba. An American intelligence service that didn't know enough about them, their purposes, and their methods to protect the President has proved its incompetence. It needs to be investigated to discover the causes for its repeated failures.